Cornish Influence in Tasmania (Updated 3rd November 2008)

At the 2007 Kernewek Lowender, Terry Trembath and his daughter Katrina prepared an excellent talk on the subject "Cornish Miners to Tasmania". As the title suggests, much of this material related to mining in Tasmania. My talk will endeavour to consider a number of factors, including mining, that may be considered as Cornish influence on Tasmania's early colonial development.

I thought it would be useful if I commenced my talk with a few historical notes about Tasmania, to help you relate my comments on the Cornish influence to the bigger picture.

In 1798, Flinders with Bass proved van Diemens Land was an island. During this expedition they found a safe anchorage in the north of the island. On return to Sydney, Governor Hunter named this anchorage Port Dalrymple, after Alexander Dalrymple Hydrographer to the Admiralty. Tasmanian white settlement started in 1803 when Lt John Bowen located a site in the south of van Diemens Land, and called this site Hobart Town. Bowen had been despatched by the third governor of NSW, Philip Gidley King for this express purpose. In 1804 King arbitrarily divided van Diemens Land into two administrative areas, naming the southern part at latitude 42° south Buckinghamshire and the northern part Cornwall. In the same year, under instructions from Lord Hobart, Governor King despatched Lt Colonel Paterson, second in command at the settlement of Sydney, to establish a site for a settlement on the north coast of Tasmania. Paterson and his party landed at Port Dalrymple on November 4th, 1804. A week later he named the river Tamar a well known Cornish name, and he named the settlement on the western shore of the river not far from the river's mouth, York Town. This proved to be an unsuitable site, and in 1806 the settlement was transferred 45 Km upstream to the head of the Tamar river, and at the confluence of the North and South Esk rivers. This new site was renamed Launceston in honour of Governor King who was born at Launceston Cornwall on 23 April 1758. (See pronounciation chart). These events were the start of Cornish influence in Tasmania, largely because of Governor King's association with Cornwall. From this time and for the next 60 years the economy was based totally on the British government sponsored convict prisons at Sarah Island in the west, Maria Island in the east, and Port Arthur to the south. Sarah Island was a small secondary punishment prison which opened in 1821 and closed in 1833. The inmates were transferred to the Port Arthur prison. The main convict populations were in Hobart and Launceston. The great majority of convicts were employed by assignment to private individuals. Only a small proportion were retained to work in public service jobs such as clerks, overseers, blacksmiths, masons, carpenters etc.

In 1825, van Diemen's Land was proclaimed a separate colony. The proclamation attracted immigrants many of whom upon arriving in Hobart Town saw it as "*an English country town of 3rd class*". In 1830 the Port Arthur prison was established. In the same year Governor Arthur implemented the "Black Line" operation. In retrospect, this was a well meaning but misguided attempt to stop the conflicts between the aborigines and the settlers, by rounding up as

many of the former as possible, and transferring them to the relatively safe haven of Flinders Island. With their superior weapons and greater numbers the settlers were causing the aborigine population to diminish rapidly. Official records show 3,000 men were recruited at a cost of £30,000 to search for natives. After 7 weeks the search was terminated, the 3,000 men having captured one old man and one boy. In 1856 van Diemens Land was renamed Tasmania. The last convict ship, the *St. Vincent*, arrived at Port Arthur on 26th May 1853. In 1877, after 47 years of operation, Port Arthur was closed as a penal settlement.

During this period free settlers gradually arrived and set up rural enterprises of sheep and cattle farming. As well, ore deposits of quartz containing gold in small quantities had been found and mined in Waterhouse about 70 Km to the north east of Launceston, but until 1871 Tasmania was regarded by many as a primitive backwater. Then in 1871 a Mr James Smith discovered a vast deposit of cassiterite (tin ore) at Mount Bischoff in the west of the island state, and this caused the economic scene of Tasmania to develop rapidly. The island economy began to depend less on British government support, and more on private enterprise, with the island's economy becoming well developed around mining, various rural enterprises and by small businesses such as boat building, whaling and sealing, (this latter being) the hunting and killing of Bass Strait fur seals for their pelts and meat. This boom in mining led to improvements in communication, such as a rail link being completed between Hobart and Launceston in 1876

In the 3 decades prior to this there were a number of economic influences working against the Cornish population in Cornwall. One such was the tin mines becoming worked out. The ore in the few remaining mines could only be recovered by deep shaft and hard rock recovery methods, both very inefficient compared with the previous methods of open cut and alluvial. Another influence was that the natural increase in population could not be supported by the diminishing size of the tenant farms. Yet another was that the pilchard fishing industry suffered a severe setback when the seasonal runs of millions of pilchard failed to materialise, putting many fishermen out of work and causing economic hardship. Further to this, the staple diet of potato was badly affected by potato blight during the 1840s. Still another influence was the effect of the Corn Laws, introduced to protect British farmers against the competition of imported grain, but which forced the price of corn up and beyond the means of the poor people. Such was the extent of these combined afflictions over an extended period of 30 to 40 years, causing the Cornish people to suffer steadily worsening living conditions, that many looked for a life elsewhere. Thus it was that Cornish influence began to appear in countries such as the USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and Australia.

One future relocation considered possible by work impoverished Cornishmen was emigration from the ancestral home to this wild inhospitable place called van Diemens Land, peopled to a large extent by indigenous men and women and recalcitrant British felons. An added attraction for these who were tin miners was that Mount Bischoff was relatively easily worked as an alluvial quarry for about 7 years, and then as an open cut quarry. Soon after, very attractive

sources of alluvial deposits of cassiterite were located in the NE of Tasmania near St Helens. So for quite an extended period, the tin miners had a guaranteed income. Those others who followed the pursuits of fishing, farming and boat building, also enjoyed a vastly improved lifestyle because of the very favourable conditions that Tasmania then offered.

By the turn of the century, in the 1901-08 period, an average of 4,520 tons per year or 35% of all tin mined in Australia came from Tasmania. In the same period, the number of tin miners working in Tasmania averaged 1,460, or 23% of all Australia. From these statistics it can be seen that the open cut and alluvial mining techniques used in Tasmania made production very efficient, compared with the deep shaft and hard rock methods which had to be used elsewhere in Australia and in Cornwall. By the end of 1908, total dividends paid to Mt Bischoff share holders was £2,160,000. In 2008 Australian currency, this is the equivalent of $520,000,000.

With big profits coming from tin and gold, prospecting for other minerals began to flourish, resulting in the discovery of other ores such as, zinc, coal, silver, tungsten, osmium, lead, copper, iridium, haematite, rutile and manganese. In all 20 different ores have been mined in Tasmania from about 500 mines registered at different times. By comparison, across the whole of Australia today there are 773 mining and exploration companies registered on the Australian Stock Exchange. The point I want to make here is that Cornishmen were renowned for their skills in mining. Many of these 1,460 tin miners would have been of Cornish origin. Thus with about 500 mines extracting some 20 different minerals, the Cornish influence on mining must have been significant.

Today in Tasmania, gold is mined at Beaconsfield in the north, the scene of the dramatic rescue of two trapped miners in April 2006. Mt Lyell in the west produces copper, gold and silver. There are approximately 20 registered mines operating in Tasmania. Some are the Zinifex mine at Roseberry on the west coast taking silver lead and zinc; the Savage River Mine west of Waratah, taking open cut magnetite; the Henty Mine near Mt Julia (near Zeehan),taking gold and silver; and the Cornwall Coal Mine in the Fingal Valley to the west of St Marys

Launceston has some strong Cornish connections. One that I have mentioned is the influence of Governor King who was appointed Governor of the NSW Colony on 28/9/1800. Another is a pretty square bounded by the 4 streets of St John, William, Cimitiere and Charles near the centre of Launceston city, and named Cornwall Square. In 1835 a newspaper called “The Cornish Chronicle” was first published in Launceston with editions every Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Then on Saturday, these 3 editions would be republished together as one edition. This newspaper was influenced strongly by the Cornish presence in the population and the editorial staff. Its claim to fame was that it “*always contains the latest local, intercolonial and European intelligence including submarine cable messages from all colonies”*. (The first submarine cable from Launceston to Cape Otway on the southern Victorian coast was commissioned in 1859). The price for all editions per quarter was 10 shillings, paid in advance, or for the Saturday edition at 7 shillings and 6 pence for the quarter, or 6 pence per

edition. This much sought after journal continued until 1880 when the founder's widow sold out the paper's interest to the Launceston Examiner. By 1869 the Cornish Cronicle was a much sought after journal.

Information published in the Cornish Chronicle was varied. There were advertisements such as the one for Holloway's wonderful ointment to treat bronchitis, rheumatism, imprudences of youth, bad breasts, chronic torpidity of the bowels, stopping of the water, piles, eruptions, cancers and other scurrilous disorders. The Cornish Chronicle announced horse races, job vacancies for house maids, table maids, grooms and general servants. There were vice regal notices, mining reports, proceedings of meetings of licenced victuallers, reports on all manner of agricultural matters, reports of parliamentary proceedings, details of court judgements, of inquest findings and critiques of recitals at the Mechanics Institute. This newspaper, the Cornish Chronicle, must have been a vital communication medium for the whole population.
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From a researcher's perspective it is unfortunate that many of the various archive records are not as complete as we would like. As an example, the nationalities of migrants from UK were generally recorded as English, not Welsh, Scot, Cornish etc. As well, ports of departure of migrant ships were mostly the English ports of Newcastle upon Tyne, Liverpool, Plymouth, Gravesend, Southampton, not Falmouth, Fowey or other Cornish ports. So

whereas there is a wealth of information about mining, information of a general nature about Cornish migration is not readily available.

Now let's consider a prominent family name you will recognise - **Dame Enid Lyons.**

Enid Muriel Burnell was born 9 July 1897 in a sawmilling camp near Smithton in the NW of Tasmania. Her early childhood was spent playing in piles of sawdust. Her mother was Eliza Taggett before marriage to William Charles Burnell, and Eliza's mother was Louisa Orchard, born 4/2/1847 at Breage Cornwall. Breage is about 15 Km as the chough flies to the east of Penzance.

Eliza, Enid's mother, had high hopes for Enid who from an early age showed a high level of intelligence as well as a very engaging personality. Possibly from inheriting Louisa's Cornish traits, Eliza worked hard taking in washing and doing sewing to earn money to send Enid to teachers' college. At age 15 Enid was sent to teachers' college in Hobart where she met with Joseph Lyons, one of the teachers. Romance blossomed, and at age 17 Enid married Joe Lyons.

Much has been written about Enid's progression and successes. Here are just a few of these. She had 12 children. She actively supported Joe in his political ambitions, and moved to Canberra in 1932 as wife of the prime minister. In 1943 she was awarded Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE). Joe died in 1939, and instead of going into mourning, Enid campaigned in the 1943 election for the Division of Darwin, North West Tasmania, won the seat and became the first woman in the House of Representatives. Enid retired from parliament in 1951, but did not sit still. She became a newspaper columnist, a Commissioner for the ABC, and published 3 books of her memoirs. She was made a Dame of the Order of Australia on Australia Day 1980. She died in 1981. So from very humble beginnings, but with the Cornish work ethics instilled in her through her mother Eliza, Enid made a substantial contribution to Australia in general, and to Tasmania in particular.

More about people names later. Place names are an example of Cornish influence in Tasmania. I mentioned earlier that for a brief period Governor Philip Gidley King had divided Tasmania into 2 administrations, the northern one being named Cornwall. As the colony grew and for government administration to be facilitated, the island was divided into 20 land districts. One, named Cornwall, includes most of Launceston, and covers about 5,400 square kilometres. For comparison, Cornwall UK covers about 7,200 square Km. (Tasmania 68,000 sq Km). Launceston in UK is the ancient capital of Cornwall, and in Saxon times (12th century) was the only walled town in Cornwall, perhaps because it was the site of the Royal Mint. Launceston Tasmania is the island's second largest city with a population of approximately 72,000. By comparison, one of the larger cities, Truro, in Cornwall UK has a population of about 21,000. Launceston Cornwall has a population of about 11,000. Launceston Tasmania is located on the Tamar River, up stream about 45 Km from the Tamar's mouth on Bass Strait. Launceston Cornwall is located 2 Km to the west of the Tamar

River, and about 30 Km upstream from the Tamar's mouth in the English Channel.

The village of Cornwall Tasmania on the east coast near St Marys, has a Cornwall Road. There is Cornwall Road at St Marys on the east coast, and Cornwall Crescent at Newnham a suburb to the north of Launceston. The well known place name of Falmouth on the south coast of Cornwall UK appears on the NE coast of Tasmania near St Marys.

In Launceston there is Cornwall Square, previously mentioned, which started life in the early 19th century as a colonial market place, and is now an up market residential/commercial area.

Reported by Dr Edna Broad in 2008 and also in Llwelyn Slingsby Bethell's book "The Story of Port Dalrymple", in and around Launceston during the 19th century, there were the Cornwall Assembly Rooms, Cornwall Brewery, Cornwall Coal (still operating), Cornwall College, Cornwall Collegiate Association, Cornwall Hotel in Cameron Street, Cornwall Insurance Company, Cornwall Pottery, the Cornwall Football Club, the Loyal Cornwall Lodge and Cornwall Turf Club. Prominent between 1828 and 1836 was the Cornwall Bank located at the corner of Cameron and Wellington Streets Launceston. It was established with a capital of £20,000 and in 1835 paid shareholders a 15% dividend. In 1836 it was absorbed into the Bank of Australasia.. The Cornwall Hotel in Cameron Street was built by John Pascoe Fawkner. It was here that Batman planned the settlement which became Melbourne. Fawkner also led a settlement party which became more effective in settling the Port Philip establishment. He later became a respected member of the Victorian parliament.

The Cornwall Hospital and Infirmary was established in 1854 on the corner of Wellington and Bathurst Streets. In 1863 it was replaced by the purpose built Launceston General Hospital. The hospital built on the corner of Cameron and George Streets was a hospital annexe to the convict penitentiary (aka "The Tench"). So the name Cornwall was extensively used to describe organisdations and places of importance

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Let's now consider a few more family names.

S amuel Clemes, born December 1845 at Liskeard Cornwall UK, was the son of Samuel, a hatter, and Jane nee Wills. Both parents were school teachers. Samuel was orphaned at age 5 and brought up by his uncle in St Austell. In 1870-71 he entered the Friends Foreign Mission Association Institute in Yorkshire to train as a teacher. Here he married Susannah Hall, and they then went to Tananarive Madagascar as missionaries. Susannah died shortly after. Samuel then married Susannah's sister Margaret.

In 1886, Samuel was appointed headmaster of Friends School in Hobart, and with his family sailed on the ship *Tainui* to Hobart. On 31/1/1887 Samuel

commenced his appointment at the Warwick Street premises of Friends School with 33 students. The school moved to larger premises at North Hobart in 1889. This school was unique as a combination co-educational day school and boarding establishment with students coming from all Australian colonies and New Zealand.

Samuel brought many innovations to the school's curriculum. He emphasised the importance of science, physical and technical education, education for leisure, exploration of the countryside, collection of fossils, plants and specimens, and the systematic recording of these. Outside of his school responsibilities he was a frequent lecturer in chemistry and geology in Hobart. He was honorory secretary in 1897- 1910, chairman 1910 and president 1915-1922 of the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, a member of the Royal Society of Tasmania from 1910, a foundation member of the YMCA and president of the Tasmanian Council of Churches.

Samuel resigned from his post at Friends School in 1900, and established Leslie House School New Town. The emphasis at this school was on character development. The kindergarten was based on Froebel's ideas and Madame Montessori's methods. Samuel was opposed to prizes and marks, contending that students should pursue learning for its own sake. His announcement at Friends school in 1897 that forthwith there would be no homework caused an uproar in the community. His constant advice to his pupils was that they should aim at growing up good, rather than great or clever. Samuel died in 1922.

Without question, this remarkable Cornishman had a profound positive effect on Tasmania's development through his creative educational methods that guided hundreds of young Tasmanian's into and through their adult lives, and through his work over many years in the YMCA, Council of Churches, Blind Institute and Royal society.

Benjamin Corvosso was born at Gluvian Cornwall in 1789. His father William started life as a fisherman, then spent 60 years as a class leader and local preacher in the Wesleyan Church. Benjamin was educated mainly by his parents. He was admitted as a probationer by the Wesleyan conference in 1814, and then spent 5 years in parishes in Devon and Cornwall. He married Deborah Banks in 1819 when they sailed to NSW on the ship *Saracen* to take up responsibilities as a missionary in the town of Windsor in the new colony.

The *Saracen* called at Hobart 25 April 1820 en route to Sydney. Here he obtained permission from the lieutenant governor to hold an open-air meeting in the courtyard, thus becoming the first Wesleyan minister to preach in the colony. He also held meetings at the prison, and with several Wesleyan families. Corvosso quickly concluded that the English born Robert Knopwood, the resident Church of England preacher was "a swearing debauched, drunken infidel". As well he "found the colony in a state of spectacular ignorance, misery and sin with no public worship in many districts". "Hunting kangaroos was the main occupation on the Sabbath at New Norfolk" he said. Following his

departure from Hobart he wrote to the British committee describing the need for a resident minister in the troubled colony. These letters were partly responsible for the subsequent migration of a number of Methodist trades people, among them Robert Mather, Henry Hopkins and John Dunn. All three were Englishmen, not Cornish. However all three made substantial contributions to Tasmanian society. For example Mather was a pastoralist and importer. Hopkins was a wool buyer, ironmonger and magistrate.

Edward Braddon was born at St Kew Cornwall in 1829 to Henry Braddon a solicitor and Fanny White. Edward was educated at University College London. He joined the Indian Civil Service rising to Assistant Commissioner. In 1857 he married Amy Palmer. They had 4 children all of whom achieved prominent positions. Amy died, and in 1876 Braddon married Alice Smith. In 1878 he retired from the Indian civil Service and settled in Tasmania.

In 1879 Braddon was elected to the Tasmanian House of Assembly. He became leader of the opposition in 1886. In 1888 Braddon left parliament and was appointed Agent-General for Tasmania in London. In 1893 he returned to Tasmania, was again elected to the Tasmanian House of Assembly, and again became leader of the opposition. In 1894 Braddon's party won the state election and he became the 18th Premier of Tasmania, a positon he held until 1899.

Braddon was an important proponent of Federation, and represented Tasmania as one of the Constitutional representatives to the Convention held in 1897. In 1901, after federation, Braddon was one of the five members for Tasmania to form the first Australian parliament.

During his career Braddon was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael & St George in 1891, and in 1897 was made a member of the Privy Council. Thus if one considers that the contributions made to Tasmania's development by Cornishmen are more important the more the person goes up the status tree, then the Right Honorable Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, KCMG, PC, must be considered as one at or near the top

In case you are thinking that it was only talented and influential people who were the movers and shakers in getting Tasmania up and running in the early days, there is little doubt that there were those at the bottom of the socio-economic scale, ferried to Tasmania at government cost, who in their own way quite literally slaved in Tasmania's interests. I refer to the transported convicts. One report which I have looked at shows the names and sentences in years of transportation of 36 convicts from Cornwall during the period 1851 to 1856. There were 13 sentences for 7 years, 7 for 10 years, 3 for 14 years, 3 for 15 years and 9 for life. 3 of these were boys. 3 were commuted from death.

Just for a moment let's look at convict transportation as a whole. 74% were English/Welsh/Scots/Cornish. 24% were Irish. The remainder were Chinese from Hong Kong, Maoris from NZ, Caribbean slaves and soldiers who had deserted, mutineed or who had been insubordinate. Between 1788, the 1st Fleet, and 1868, the year of the last convict ship which arrived in Fremantle WA, a

total of 162,000 convicts were transported to Australia. To give one perspective of this huge number, that is roughly one third of today's entire population of Cornwall. Of these 162,000, approximately 73,000 went to NSW and Norfolk Island, 10,000 to WA, 1,750 to Victoria, 2,280 to Queensland. The largest group, 75,000 went to Tasmania. I do not know how many of these 75,000 were of Cornish origin, but based on a number of records it seems that the % of Cornish convicts to Tasmania was only 1.2% of the total, ie about 920. In the majority of cases, upon being released from prison, convicts would take up normal community life, thus a reasonable conclusion is that the contribution to Tasmania's development by this significant number of Cornish men and women would have been substantial.

As well, there were the free settlers – the blacksmiths, carpenters, domestic servants, shop keepers all looking for a better life style than that offered in Cornwall. Some of these arrived on the ship *Cape Clear* which departed London on 25 August 1883, arriving Hobart 26 October 1883. There were Jessie Deacon wife of George a carpenter, Benjamin Menadus, a miner, his wife Elizabeth and their infant daughter Carrie, and Thomas Menadire, a miner.

Although mining has been covered by other speakers at recent Kernewek Lowenders, perhaps a few words here would be of interest to you for the reason that Cornish miners familiarly known as Cousin Jacks have been respected in the mining industry for well over 200 years. There is an old saying that goes something like this, "If there is a hole in the ground, there is likely to be a Cornishman at the bottom". Tasmania was, and still is, a rich source of commercially attractive minerals, and as in any other enterprise where knowledge and skill are required, the best source of these characteristics required in mining has been Cornwall. One example of this can be seen in the "Descriptive List of Immigrants by the SS *Cuzco*" which sailed from London on the 2nd September 1885, arriving at Melbourne 17 October 1885. Listed for onward travel to Tasmania were 10 Cornishmen, 4 of whom were shown travelling with their wives and amongst them having 10 children. All 10 men were listed as Quarryman and were sponsored by the Bangor Slate Company of Launceston Tasmania. The family names of these immigrants were Conj, Hawkey (see below), Lobb, Mitchell, Eden, Hockin, Ruse, Williams and Jenkin.

There are other family names with Cornish association, where the influence on Tasmania's development is distinct although perhaps not as strong as others such as Clemes, Braddon, Corvosso.

Jeffrey. Joseph Jeffrey was baptised 22 December 1814 at St Winnow near Bodmin in Cornwall. Joseph married Mary Werry, a widow with daughter Mary on 6 August 1839, and shortly after they migrated to Tasmania. Joseph was employed as an Overseer on the rural property "Kingston" owned by John Batman. In June 1853, Joseph's step daughter Mary married a Cornish migrant John Blake, in the Weslyan church at Longford Tasmania.

Bullock. On 8th August 1842 the ship *Sir Charles Napier* departed Gravesend London, calling at Plymouth. From here, the 226 immigrants bound for van

Diemens Land included John and Mary Bullock and their 9 children. On the 28th November 1842, the *Sir Charles Napier* berthed at Hobart, and the immigrants were housed in the Campbell Street Immigrant quarters. An advertisment published in the Hobart Town Courier on Friday 9 December 1842 listing "persons without appointment". Included were John, a "First Class Farm Servant", his son William as "Cabinet Maker and Carpenter", and his wife Mary, "an excellent dairywoman".

Webber. William Webber was born in Kea Cornwall in 1850. Following migration to Launceston, he established a grocery and hop beer manufacturing business. He developed a herbal remedy, which he named Vitadatio, and by 1900 was distributing this throughout the world. He claimed that Vitadatio was a panacea to many ailments. The recipe has been published in a book by John Rowland Skemp "Memories of Myrtle Bank" page 95.

Hawkey **Thomas & Ellen.** This couple were among a group of Cornish miners and families brought to Tasmania in October 1885 by the Bangor Slate Company to work at the East Tamar quarry. Thomas was a 27 year old quarryman from Medrose when on the 5th of November 1881 he married Ellen, a 22 year old spinster from Pengelly. Slate from Bangor was used as roofing in Launceston and Hobart, but by 1888, the preferred iron roofing made the Bangor mine's product obsolete. Thomas then worked at the Beaconsfield gold mine. He died in 1905 and is buried at Beaconsfield.

Treverton. Camborne family for generations. Richard John "Snowy" Treverton was a young copper miner at Mt Lyell when on 12th October 1912, a fire broke out underground. Snowy and 41 other miners died. He was reported later in the Dundas Herald as being a hero as he attempted to save the lives of other miners.

Tresseder. Three brothers left Cornwall in 1857 in search of gold in Australia. One of them, John, took vegetable seeds with him and set up a market garden & shop in Sydney. This was the start of the Tresseder nurseries which operated in Cornwall and Australia for over 50 years. One interesting story is how the brothers wanted some of Tasmania's tree ferns locally known as manferns. So they negotiated with Sir Philip Fysh (Premier of Tasmania 1877) to swap English acorns for manferns.

Tremayne. William Cornelius Tremayne is believed to have been born in Redruth 1884. He worked as a tin miner at Derby most of his life. He died 1963 and is buried at Ellesmere General Cemetery, Scottsdale. Details can be obtained from his descendant Heather Rollins, bjrhdr@bigpond.net.au.

Tregaskis. William Attwood Tregaskis was born at Penryn Parish in 1827. There were 8 brothers and 2 sisters in the family. The family migrated to Tasmania about 1845. William, his wife & 4 children moved to Ballarat in 1858 to join 2 of the other brothers Henry and Richard. William died in Ballarat in 1869. Upon William's death William's son John, born 1859 at Maldon Victoria moved with his mother to Beaconsfield where John's sister Elizabeth was

married to the mine manager Joseph Davies. John remained at the Beaconsfield mine. John's brother Francis went to Queenstown where he was employed as an engineer at the Mt Lyall mines before moving to the Electrolytic Zinc works near Hobart.

Anthony Roberts was born 31/10/1848 at Wendron Cornwall UK, and died 1/9/1924 at Devonport Tasmania . He married **Serena Watters** on 9/9/1872. Serena was born 19/9/1843 at Breage Cornwall UK (about 10 Km from Wendron), and died 25/3/1918 at Devonport Tasmania. Anthony and Serena had 8 children – Alfred, Elizabeth, Richard, Caroline, William, Maud, Alice and Frank. They lived for much of their working lives at Waratah, the mining town in Tasmania's NW. Page 139 of L S Bethell's book "The Story of Port Dalrymple" states "At *Waratah by Mount Bischoff there were over 1,200 people, including many Cornishmen*" .

Morris Moses. Morris was one of a band of Cornish quarrymen selected by Mr George Henry Farleigh to migrate to Tasmania at the expense of the Bangor Slate Company (£5000) to work the slate quarry at Bangor, north of Launceston. Morris and his wife Ann sailed from London aboard the vessel *Cuzco* on 29th April 1885, arriving Tasmania (possibly Georgetown) 16 June 1885. Unfortunately Morris died 19th October 1886, cause unknown. Ann remarried 5 years later .

Goninan Henry, born 1827, and his wife Mary, both initially from Cornwall, migrated to Tasmania via Moonta SA in 1878. Henry joined the Beaconsfield gold mine in 1880, working there until his death in 1886. Henry and Mary were the start of a dynasty of Goninans in Tasmania, such that today it is said that there are more Goninans in Tasmania than in Cornwall. Goninan and its alternative spellings is an old Cornish name. In June 2002, John Saunders and Trevor Goninan put together a Goninan family reunion in Redruth Cornwall UK. Ninety five Goninon descendants attended. This was regarded as a success and a second Goninan family reunion was conducted in Launceston Tasmania in 2005. It attracted 250 attendees.The third reunion is scheduled for June 2009, to be held at Madison in the state of Wisconsin USA. As well as the typical activities of talks, tours, entertainment and dinner, there will be a church service in the Linden United Methodist church, built in 1850 by Cornish settlers.

Towards the end of my research, I was contacted by Dr John Morris of Norwood Tasmania, informing me that his grandfather, **John Craze** and his grandmother **Sarah** were born at Illogan near Redruth around 1860. The Cyclopedia of Tasmania (vol 1) published in 1900 recounts John Craze's activities in the mining idustry in Cornwall, the USA, Ballarat, Zeehan on Tasmania's west coast and Sheffield. He retired in the late 1920s.

Dr Morris also mentions the following as Cornish born or recent descendants of Cornish stock.:

Jack Andrews, a nephew of Sarah Craze and a Cornishman by birth. Andrews managed the silver mine at Mt Farrell, Tullah. **Alfred Harry**, who was Dr Morris' Latin master at school in the 1930s.
Ralph Harry, Alfred's son, became a Rhodes Scholar and later a senior Australian diplomat.
Clarrie Pryor, one time mayor of Launceston and now retired from public life, is the son of parents born in Redruth
A Mr **Tredennick**, who was the Sheffield dentist in the 1920s & 30s
Herman Tremayne who had a drapery store in Devonport

Conclusion.

From the foregoing I hope you will agree with me that the Cornish influence on Tasmania's development over many years, right from the time of Governor Philip Gidley King in 1803, has been substantial. The adoption of Cornish place names, Cornish men and women working in different enterprises, and most importantly the strong Cornish work ethic, have collectively contributed to Tasmania's economic and social welfare.

I have just one hand out for you to take away with you in the event you want to do some research of your own. It is simply a list of acknowledgements, further reading and some website addresses. I expect some of you may have questions and comments you would like to put to me, and if so I will do my best to respond. BUT, please bear in mind that here today I am a foreigner. You see, my pedigree is English as far back as I can discover. You will know that in days past, the Irish hated the English. The Scots hated the English. The Welsh hated the English and the Cornish not only hated, but also fought the English on many occasions. Fortunately, times have changed matters, and attitudes have softened. Two examples of this are firstly that in the most recent UK census, 7% only of Cornish people claimed their ethnicity to be Cornish. The other is that a woman of Cornish descent forgave my English heritage and accepted my proposal of marriage 55 years ago. So, any questions or comments?

Postscript

In Launceston Tasmania there is a Fulford Street, named after Thomas Percy Fulford, who was elected to the Borough Council of Launceston Cornwall in 1939, and became mayor of that city in 1949. In December 1949 Mayor Fulford and his wife made an official visit to Launceston Tasmania, bringing with him the Mayoral Chain, the first time it had been permitted toleave UK. During this visit Fulford Street was named to mark the occasion and the special link between the two Launcestons